

*Medical Officer's*

✦ *Report* ✦

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY  
CONDITION

OF THE

**Urban District of Springhead**

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER,

1920.

LEES:

J. B. LORD & SONS, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS.



# REPORT

---

In accordance with the Memorandum issued by the Minister of Health a brief description of the physical features of general character of the district is required, though the following facts may seem superfluous locally.

The Springhead Urban District is situated in the western corner of the Saddleworth Union. On the north and east it abuts on the Saddleworth Urban District, while its western and southern boundries form the County Boundary between Lancashire and Yorkshire. The County Borough of Oldham abuts on the north, and the Urban District of Lees on the south and centre. The district has a length of about three miles from High Bank Farm in the north to Holly Bank in the south, and its greatest width from east to west is about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles.

Its surface varies from about 560 odd feet above sea level at the "Gardener's Arms" Waterhead the lowest point, to 1,196 feet near "High Lea Farm" the highest point.

The population is rather scattered, the northern half is almost entirely agricultural, as is also the eastern half of the southern portion. The greater portion of the northern half of the district is within the gathering area of the Strinesdale Reservoirs of the Oldham Corporation. The remaining portion is a manufacturing centre, with cotton mills, and centres of population at Waterhead, Austerlands, Den Lane, Springhead, Lydgate, and Quickedge.

Population at census of 1911 5,052, an increase of 354 on the census of 1901. The estimated population for 1920 is 4,663.

## **Births**

The total number of births registered in the district during the year was 97 of which 53 were males and 44 were females. Of the males 4 and of the females 2 were illegitimate.

This number was an increase of 41, as compared with the year 1919, and is equal to a rate of 20·8 per 1,000 of the population.

The birth rate for 1919 was 11·9.

The birth rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1920 is 25·4.

### **Deaths.**

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 68—25 males and 43 females; giving a death rate of 14·5 per 1,000 of the population.

The death rate for 1919 was 16·9.

The death rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1920 is 12·4.

### **Infantile Mortality**

There were 7 deaths under 12 months of age as compared with 6 in 1919, giving a rate of 72·1 per 1,000 births registered.

The rate of Infantile Mortality for the whole of England and Wales is 80.

The following are the causes of deaths under 12 months:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Gastro Enteritis.....      | 3 |
| Convulsions .....          | 1 |
| Premature Birth .....      | 1 |
| Pneumonia .....            | 1 |
| Cardiac Malformation ..... | 1 |

The causes of the remaining number of deaths will be found on a table attached.

### **Sanitary circumstances of the district.**

#### **Water Supply.**

Practically the whole district (with the exception of a small area in Strinesdale portion) is supplied with water from the Oldham Corporation and the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks.

There have been no further developments during 1920.

## **Rivers and Streams.**

The majority of streams in the district are polluted, but this will be remedied under the Sewerage scheme.

No Sink wastes have been disconnected during 1920.

The Sewers throughout the whole district have been laid (but as yet only a few properties have been connected). Borrowing powers have been obtained for connection to Sewers.

It is hoped that the whole scheme will be completed during the present year.

## **Drainage and Sewerage.**

### **Closet accommodation,**

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Privies with open Middens.....  | 29  |
| Number of Pail Closets .....    | 829 |
| ,,    Water Closets .....       | 19  |
| ,,    Waste-water Closets ..... | 7   |

## **Scavenging**

The whole of the Scavenging for the district is performed by contract, and on the whole is adequate. The Pail Closets and Ash Bins are now emptied weekly.

## **Nuisance Inspections.**

Total number of inspections made in 1920, 104.

64 Informal Notices have been served of which 63 have been complied with.

3 Statutory Notices have been served, 2 of which have been complied with.

|                                                        |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Total number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1919 ... | 5  |
| Total number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1920 ... | 6  |
| Total number of Nuisances reported during 1920 .....   | 64 |
| Total number of Nuisances abated during 1920 .....     | 63 |

No Summonses or other legal proceedings.

There are no Common Lodging-houses, Canal Boats, or Knackers Yard, and no Offensive Trades in the district.

## **Schools.**

Visits to Schools by M.O.H. are made as occasion arises. Disinfectants are supplied to all schools in the district for systematic use. The Sanitary conditions and Water Supply to the Schools are satisfactory.

Medical Inspections of School Children is carried out by the County Medical Officer (and his Assistants) who is the School Medical Officer for the district.

## **Milk Supply.**

No complaints have been notified, and no cases of disease have been attributed to milk in 1920.

Veterinary inspection of dairy cows to be made in cases suspected by M.O.H. to be tubercular. There are 32 Cow-keepers in the district, of which 25 are registered, and 75 Cowsheds, to which 67 Inspections have been made during 1920. 29 of the Cow-sheds are in good condition, 44 are fair and 2 are bad.

Approx. number of Milch Cows in the district 325.

## **Other Foods.**

There have been no samples of food taken for examination under Food and Drugs Act.

There are four Slaughter-houses in the district which are all registered. These are all old fashioned

No prosecutions have been made *re* (a) Food and Drugs ; (b) Unsound Food ; (c) Slaughter Houses.

## **Housing.**

### **I.—HOUSING.**

- (1)—Total number of houses .....1298  
Number of working classes.....1190  
1 house (Wooden Bungalow) erected during 1920  
and none in course of erection.

(2)—Population. Estimated for 1920 is 4,663.

(3)—(a) Shortage of houses.

(b) It is proposed to build 48 new houses, all of which will have 3 or more bedrooms.

## II.—OVERCROWDING.

(1)—Extent; 28 houses occupied by 261 persons.

(2)—Causes; Shortage of houses and objection of property owners to letting houses to large families.

(3)—Measures contemplated to overcome overcrowding : erection of new houses.

(4)—No particular action taken against overcrowding during 1920.

## III.—FITNESS OF HOUSES.

(1)—(a) General standard: One-third of the houses in the district are below the Ministry of Health's standard.

(b) General character of defects :

No separate yards,  
No through ventilation,  
Back to earth causing dampness.

(2)—No regular action yet taken as regards unfit houses.

(3)—Difficulties in remedying unfitness: Cost of alteration would in many cases be prohibitive.

(4)—Water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal adequate.

## IV.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

No action yet taken on account of no provision being available for dispossessed tenants.

## **Factories and Workshops.**

3 Smoke observations have been taken, no cautions and no legal notices have been served.

## **Sanitary Administration of the District.**

There is no Hospital for either Infectious Diseases or for Tuberculosis, but arrangements are made for treatment of Infectious Diseases at the Oldham Hospital when necessary, at a cost of £2 2s. per case per week.

A Joint Hospital Committee was formed before the War embracing Springhead, Lees and Saddleworth, which had under consideration the question of providing a suitable Hospital for the district, with the necessary steam disinfectors and ambulance. As each year passes the need for such a hospital becomes more pressing, and it is to be hoped that the new Ministry of Health will shortly advocate the building of an Isolation Hospital for these districts.

No chemical or bacteriological work has been undertaken, beyond the examination of Sputum, Blood, etc., for purposes of diagnosis. Supplies of Anti-Diphtheritic Serum are kept at the Council Offices, for use by local practitioners.

## **Byelaws and Regulations.**

The following are in force in the district :—  
New Streets and Buildings (P.H. Amendment Act, 1890..... Aug. 11th, 1906  
Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops' Act ..... Mar. 10th, 1907

## **Prevalence of and Control over Acute Infectious Diseases.**

Total number of cases reported 18, as compared with 148 in 1919.

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Scarlet Fever .....         | 9 |
| Erysipelas .....            | 2 |
| Diphtheria .....            | 1 |
| Pneumonia .....             | 2 |
| Puerperal Fever .....       | 1 |
| Chicken-pox .....           | 1 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..... | 2 |

13 cases of Tuberculosis (under Tuberculosis Regulation 1912) were notified during 1920. Of these 11 were Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2 of other parts. There is no Sanatorium or Hospital accommodation for these cases in the district.

These cases are visited by the County Authorities and are treated at the Branch Dispensary at Uppermill, or at one of the County Sanatoria.

### **Means of Preventing Mortality in Childbirth and in Infancy.**

Visiting under the Notification of Births Act is carried out by the District Nurse (Springhead Nursing Association) acting under instructions from the County Medical Authorities.

### **Factories and Workshops**

Factories 16 ; Workshops 21 ; No. of Inspections 22 (excluding visits of M.O.H. The Closet accommodation of these is satisfactory. The Fire Escapes are considered by the L.A. to be sufficient.

**E. MARTIN, M.B., B.S.,**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

WATERHEAD, OLDHAM,  
MAY 16th, 1921.

## Causes of Death.

|                                              |    |       |    |
|----------------------------------------------|----|-------|----|
| All Causes .....                             | 25 | ..... | 43 |
| <hr style="width: 10%; margin: 10px auto;"/> |    |       |    |
| Enteric Fever .....                          | 0  | ..... | 1  |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....                  | 4  | ..... | 5  |
| Other tuberculous diseases.....              | 1  | ..... | 1  |
| Cancer, malignant disease .....              | 3  | ..... | 3  |
| Rheumatic Fever .....                        | 1  | ..... | 1  |
| Organic Heart Disease .....                  | 2  | ..... | 7  |
| Bronchitis .....                             | 1  | ..... | 4  |
| Pneumonia (all forms).....                   | 1  | ..... | 3  |
| Other Respiratory Diseases .....             | 0  | ..... | 1  |
| Nephritis and Bright's Disease .....         | 1  | ..... | 1  |
| Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) .....         | 2  | ..... | 1  |
| Congenital Debility, &c.....                 | 0  | ..... | 2  |
| Violence .....                               | 1  | ..... | 1  |
| Suicide .....                                | 2  | ..... | 0  |
| Other defined diseases.....                  | 5  | ..... | 12 |
| Causes ill-defined or unknown .....          | 1  | ..... | 0  |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.       | 3  | ..... | 4  |





